

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 SAJ-01 AID-05 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00
/091 W

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R 051848Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8500

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

UNCLAS PARIS 00391

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SO FT

SUBJ: INTERVIEW WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT

1. ADDRESSEES' ATTENTION CALLED TO FRONT PAGE INTERVIEW
WITH SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE WHICH APPEARS IN
LE MONDE OF JAN 6. SIAD'S REPLIES TO ANDRE FONTAINE'S
QUESTIONS GENERALLY FOLLOW AN EXPECTED LINE.

2. SIAD SAYS THE CHIEF PROBLEM OF DJIBOUTI IS TO FIND
A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. HE IS "ASTONISHED" THAT THE NEW
ELECTORAL LAW IS THE SAME AS THE OLD ONE. SIAD REPEATS
THAT SOMALIA WILL RESPECT DJIBOUTI'S INDEPENDENCE AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND SEES NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THAT DECLARATION AND "GUARANTEES". HOWEVER, HE WILL
NOT ADMIT PUBLICLY, AS SOME WISH, THAT THE DJIBOUTI
POPULATION IS NOT PART OF THE SOMALI PEOPLE SINCE TO
DO SO WOULD DENY "AN INDISPUTABLE HISTORIC FACT".

3. ETHIOPIAN LEADERS WOULD BE "CRAZY" TO INVADE THE
FTAI, SIAD SAYS, AND IF THEY DID SO, SOMALIA WOULD
TAKE THE MATTER TO THE OAU. REPLYING TO THE QUESTION
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OF WHETHER OTHER POWERS MIGHT ENCOURAGE ETHIOPIA, SIAD
SAYS, "CERTAIN AMERICANS ARE TRYING TO MAKE TROUBLE".

4. ASKED ABOUT SOVIET FACILITIES AT BERBERA, SIAD
DISMISSES IT AS NOT A SERIOUS QUESTION. "THE FRENCH
ALSO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM OUR PORT
FACILITIES. AS FOR THE AMERICANS, I TOLD PRESIDENT

FORD, 'IF YOU WISH TO COME, COME AS A FRIEND BUT NOT AS
SOMEONE WHO IS TRYING TO GIVE ORDERS'. THE TRUTH IS
THAT WE ARE FIRMLY OPPOSED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT,
WHEREVER IT BE, OF FOREIGN BASES BECAUSE WE BELIEVE
THAT EACH TIME ONE IS CREATED, IT LEADS TO THE
CREATION OF ANOTHER, AND THAT THIS FACT ENDANGERS THE
PEACE".

RUSH

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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